

## EVERYDAY HONESTY.

NOT SO SCARCE AS MANY WOULD  
HAVE US BELIEVE.

There Are More Trusts Sacredly Kept Than  
Are Betrayed, Says Rev. Madison C.  
Peters—Existing Bankruptcy Laws Con-  
demned.

I am not one of those who believe that "every man has his price," and that "an honest man has a lock of hair growing in the palm of his right hand." No! There are in the world of business many more honest men than rogues, and for one trust betrayed there are thousands most sacredly kept.

I have no sympathy with the cynic who, as history informs us, being ordered to summon the good men of the city before the Roman censor, proceeded immediately to the graveyard, and standing on a grave called to the dead below, saying he knew not where to find a good man alive; or that sour sage, that prince of gamblers, who could speak in praise of no one but himself and his wife—the latter deserving all the praise she got by enduring him so long. I refer to Thomas Carlyle, who described the population as consisting of so many millions, "mostly fools." When any one complains, as Diogenes did, that he has to hunt the streets with candles at noonday to find an honest man, we are apt to think that his nearest neighbor would have quite as much difficulty in making such a discovery. If you think there is not a true man living, you had better, for appearance sake, not say so until you are dead yourself.

## FATTENING ON LOVE.

But some of the most gigantic scoundrels have fattened on sermons about love, faith, inspiration, the efficacy of the sacraments and heaven, who ought by practical preaching to have been thundered out of the church, where their presence was a sacrilege and a disgrace. Mr. Froude, the distinguished English historian and essayist, said that he had heard hundreds of sermons on the non-essentials, "but never during these 30 wonderful years, never one that I can recollect on common honesty, or those primitive commandments—thou shalt not steal."

## OUR BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

The bankruptcy laws of our land have reduced stealing to a fine art. Our laws are making people dishonest by fixing it so that a man can wipe out his debts by compromising with his creditors.

The world is a goose; to succeed you must pick the feathers off nicely by buying on tick; The vulgar pickpocket is sent off to jail; Be polite; give your note, and gracefully fail.

## SMASHING ON A GRAND SCALE.

Strange, but true, a man will be treated kindly in proportion to the severity of his fall. Smash on a small scale, and the world will jump on you with both feet; smash on a grand scale, and the world will take you by the hand. What the world needs more than anything else right now is downright honesty, and the church will never convert the world until she gets honest. She has too many members who are agents for and boarders with their wives. A man's church membership has not the commercial value of \$1. There are thousands of men in our churches who do not tell the truth.

I was reading the other day of an old Hard Shell Baptist down in Georgia who walked into a store one day and said to the merchant, "I want a couple of hun-

dred dollars' worth of goods this year on credit." The merchant looked at his old hat and jean pants, and concluded that he was not the sort of man to trust, and told him he would not give him the goods. The man walked out, and the merchant asked the clerk in the store, "Who is that man?" "That's Mr. So-and-so and he belongs to the Hard Shell church up here." The merchant went out after him and said: "Friend, come back here. Are you a Hard Shell?" He said, "Yes." "Well," said the merchant, "you can have all you want. You can have all here in this store on credit for as long time as you need." And down in Georgia the Hard Shells will turn defaulters out of church just as quickly as they will drunkards.

I hope to see the day when you may sell the last thing a man has who can, but won't, pay his honest debts.

How can you keep the things that the people ought to have? If all our church members would pay their debts, the world would have more confidence in the church and in Christianity.

## HONESTY AND POLICY.

As a mere matter of selfishness, "honesty is the best policy." But he who is honest for policy's sake is already a moral bankrupt. Men of policy are conscientiously (?) honest when they think honesty will pay the better, but when policy will pay better they give honesty the slip. Honesty and policy have nothing in common. When policy is in, honesty is out. It is more honorable for some men to fail than for others to succeed. Rather be like Longfellow's honest blacksmith, "who looked the whole world in the face and feared not any man," than enrich yourself at the sacrifice of conscience and the blessing of heaven.

## CHARACTER IS CAPITAL.

Part with anything other than your integrity and conscious rectitude. Capital is not what a man has, but what a man is. Character is capital.

Take thou no thought for ought save truth and right.

Content if such thy fate to die obscure;  
Wealth falls, and honors; fame may not endure,  
And loftier souls soon weary of delight.

Keep innocence, be all a true man ought;  
Let neither pleasures tempt nor pain appall.  
Who hath this, he hath all things, having naught.

Who hath it not, hath nothing, having all.

MADISON C. PETERS.

## Cold Churches.

Christianity served on ice makes empty pews. Warm hearts, warm greetings, warm handshakings are means of grace. People meet every Sunday for years in some of our churches, and if they attempted to get up a smile of recognition they would receive a look like unto the Egyptian sphinx.

## The Church Grandmothers.

There are plenty of sermons on justification, verbal inspiration, effectual calling and the efficacy of the sacraments. But the Ten Commandments, the sermon on the mount and all that Christianity is meant to do in making the life pure is left undone. Our duty, measured by much of the preaching of the times, is no longer to be honest and true and self denying and pure, like the Divine Pattern, but to hold accurately the creed of the church fathers (church grandmothers).

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